

FEBRUARY

ARCHIVES/COLLECTION MAN 1-1-200
624 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100

Christ hosts
gospel singing

Nicholas
Johnson turns
5-years-old

AIM Program
comes to Zion
Chapel Schools

The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 34 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 5, 2004 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Coffee County Water Authority plans third sign-up meeting for Phase II of system expansion project

The Coffee County Water Authority recently held two public meetings to sign-up customers for Phase II of the county-wide rural water system, and a third and final sign-up meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Victoria Baptist Church fellowship hall.

Steve Pelham, state director of the funding agency, USDA-Rural Development, said at a recent meeting that 89 percent of the rural residents of Alabama now have access to public water and fire protection. According to Austin Mixon of the Coffee County Water

Authority, 61 percent of the homes in Phase I (south of U.S. Highway 84) signed up for public water. This percentage represented about 739 new sign-ups in Phase I.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 20, about 210 sign-ups had been obtained for Phase II which includes the

northern part of the county," Mixon said. "USDA-Rural Development has informed the board that a deadline should be set as soon as possible after the required 400 sign-ups have been obtained."

Davis Hicks, consulting engineer for the Authority, said it is imperative those parties interested in the future development of Coffee County assist in obtaining sign-ups from their neighbors.

"It is very important that the local volunteer fire department become active in supporting this project and assisting in obtaining the remaining necessary sign-ups," he said.

Sign-up forms may be obtained from the Coffee County Water Authority by calling (334) 894-9254. The Authority intends to serve only those residents desiring public water and potential fire protection.

Areas with a few or no sign-ups may be deleted from the project scope, and Hicks said the sign-up fee of \$25 will be refunded if water service is not provided to the signee at his property line.

Caylor farm receives state recognition



Bill and Sharon Caylor of Coffee County were chosen as the Peanut Division winners in the Alabama Outstanding Young Farm Family preliminary competition held Saturday, Jan. 31, in Point Clear. The competition is sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation's Young Farmers Division and seeks to spotlight good stewardship and farm management by young farmers throughout the state. As division winners, the Caylor family received a plaque and a cash prize.

Dorsey Trailers reports excellent month of sales

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Dorsey Trailers management is reporting a massive jump in orders for the month of January.

According to CEO Chris Street, the sales department, comprised of Phillip Daniels, Steve Morgan and Paula Moreau, recorded over \$5,000,000 in new sales during January. This is the largest one month of sales since the "new

Dorsey" began operating.

He indicated, the company expects to soon announce the recall of laid off employees and the hiring of additional production workers. Street added that these latest orders lend themselves well to assembly line work and the local plant should have no trouble producing and delivering them within the time limits desired by the customers.

During Elba City Council meeting Financial statement reviewed

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council met briefly on Monday, January 26. Council members were updated by City Clerk Wayne Grantham on the 24 hour delay in residential garbage pick-up. He explained that the contractor reported a mechanical problem with the truck on Monday morning (the 26th) and the entire schedule would be delayed for one day during that week.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth gave council members an annual statistics comparison for 2003 compared with 2002. The report showed the department vehicles drove 19,441 miles less than the

year before (187,996 compared with 207,437 in '02). However there was a trade off for this savings. Officers made 671 fewer traffic arrests and issued 982 fewer warnings. There were also 14 fewer DUI arrests during the year 17 arrest, down from 31 in 2002. Reported traffic accidents were also down, only 57 compared to 74 in 2002.

Drug arrests were up by 125, a 2004% increase over the year before and criminal arrests were up by 55.

Council members were given copies of the city financial statement and Mayor James Grimes encouraged them to call him or the city clerk if, after reviewing the statement, they have any questions about the financial status or any particular expense.

Through the month of December the city has received revenues totaling \$765,347 and spent \$688,571.

The positive news on revenue was led by a increase in local sales tax, showing \$21,000 over budget expectations. However part of the jump in total revenue was from a \$36,000 additional transfer from the W&E Board.

Please See CITY, Page 3

NEWS BRIEF

Jason Britt Anderson, age 26, of Kinston, died Sunday, Feb. 1, after an embolism of dirt collapsed on him while he was working on a sewer line along New Seaway Road in Greenville, Ala.

According to police reports, Anderson was buried in a trench about 18 feet deep, and the weight of the dirt was too much.

Greenville Fire Dept. personnel spent almost five hours trying to dig Anderson out before beginning a body recovery operation.

Although levee rehabilitation project remains ahead of schedule Weather slightly postpones lane closure of Hwy. 84 bridge in Elba

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Weather permitting, those two words determine many things each and every day and have become common in Elba as work continues on the levee rehabilitation project.

Just a few weeks ago, construction of a new flood gate at the Pea River bridge on Highway 84 was steering motorists towards the closure of one lane of traffic on the bridge beginning Monday, Feb. 9; however, inclement weather moved in and that date has now

been pushed back a bit.

Gene Oden, project manager for LJC Construction Company, said the recent rainy weather has postponed the closure a bit, but he still expects it to take place some time in February.

Without committing to an exact date, he said he feels the one lane closure will begin somewhere between Feb. 16 and Feb. 23, and the closure will more than likely be in place for a couple of weeks.

Oden said his company will give local residents and motorists prior warning as to

exactly when the lane closing will take place, and alternate routes of travel will be suggested.

"There is a lot of traffic that travels through this area," he said. "So, motorists can expect really, really long delays."

Once the closure is in place, he said workers will be on site Monday through Saturday for the entire work day.

Lighted signs will be strategically placed to suggest alternate travel routes.

As for the rest of the levee rehabilitation project, Oden said

things are going very well.

He said all roads have been reopened at this time, including the Troy Highway in Elba, and the slurry wall should be completed in a few weeks.

At this point, he said only two major components of the project remain - constructing the flood gate at the Pea River bridge on Hwy. 84 and dressing up the levee with a clay topping and seeding.

"We are still looking at having the project completed around April 15th," Oden said.



Construction of the new flood gate for the Pea River bridge on U.S. Highway 84 in Elba is moving along well despite recent inclement weather conditions. The construction of the gate is one of the final steps in completing the levee rehab project, and as this gate takes shape, motorists are urged to use extreme caution when traveling across the bridge to assure the safety of the construction crew members.

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY BOE will meet Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. at the board of education office, located at 400 Rockback Hill Rd., Elba. This will be the regular monthly meeting of the board.

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 9, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

THE NEW BROCKTON TOWN COUNCIL will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the New Brockton Town Hall.

THE SOUTHEAST ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Coffee County Youth Center. For more information call Elizabeth Winkler at 334-894-2077 or Charles Jester at 334-308-2724.

THE 2004 "VALENTINE SWEETHEART FAIRY" will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium. Age divisions will include 9-11 months, 1-2 years, 2-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-18 years. The Elba Masonic Lodge #870 is sponsoring the program. For more information, call Paula Anderson at 897-4301 (after 4 p.m.), Beth Winkler at 897-5020, Sue Calkins at 897-5020 or Ray Kyle at 897-5020.

NOTICE

The Elba Chamber of Commerce will host a Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss downtown redevelopment and receive input from local citizens.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

Tim and Lisa Johnson were in Clanton early last week for an official opening of their new H & R Block office in that city. They sure made a positive impression on Clanton people. We were in Clanton for a meeting later in the week and were told what nice people Elba had sent up there on Tuesday. When later relaying that compliment to the Johnsons they were in turn full of praise for the Clanton Chamber of Commerce and other citizens for the red carpet treatment they received that day. The moral of this story might have something to do with repaying what you sow. In other words if you act nice others react nicely. It works both ways. There are two groups who put their best foot forward and left positive impressions on each other. Now if we could learn to practice that... all the time, things might seem a bit better in our little corner of the world!

The national news headlines on radio, TV, magazine and newspaper regularly scream "two dead, five dead, etc." when bombs explode in the Middle East. It is not refreshing news but we get it every day of the week. It happens if Americans are killed or if natives of the affected country are killed. Yet several days ago when hundreds were trampled to death... at a religious event in one of these same Middle Eastern countries, it was not a headline story, if used at all. A human death is a human death, regardless of the agenda of the reporter and/or editor. This is no way minimizes the major concern for our fallen American soldiers and their families... but we would like to see all news reported equally.

It is amusing to watch the Democrat presidential wannabes beat up on each other but unite with the same message in their criticism of Republican President George W. Bush, who can apparently do nothing right, at least in their eyes. Party faithful in the states usually featured on the evening news are supporting ABB (anyone but Bush). They want him out of office so badly that many appear willing to strike a deal with the devil if it will help beat George Bush in November. We share their opinion that he hasn't done everything right, but thus far the candidates the Democrats have offered the American people are... well... their potential (or lack thereof) to lead this great nation forward in what has become a fast changing world is very, very scary!

Only one Elba Girl Scout tried to sell us any cookies this year, which was a surprise and a drastic change from the past 40 years, yet we only had a \$20 bill and she was out of change. Several attempts to reconnect failed because either we missed her, she didn't have her paperwork or something. After the selling time passed last week our hard working sales lady assured us that there would be some extra cookies available for purchase... just for you truly *ps. Please e-mail us, don't let Heidi we were walking around for a couple of days with a free, unobligated \$20 bill!*

The Alabama legislature is in session this week. We noticed that Senator Hank Sanders, of Selma, had prefilled over 40 law-changing bills. That is enough to keep the entire legislature tied up for a whole session, assuming there is the least bit of differing opinions on two or three of his proposals... and there already is, especially on his property tax increase proposal for Dallas County.

U.S. Senator Richard Shelby reported in an e-mail late Monday that he plans to introduce a Balance Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. There are headaches with that as Alabama knows, but it will be welcome news to overburdened, stressed out American taxpayers. It will also bode well with Alabama voters in November.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Jan. 26, 2004, investigated the following incidents: three for theft of property, three for domestic violence, one harassment, two for assault, two for criminal mischief, one breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, one missing juvenile.

The following arrests were made: one for minor consumption, one for fraud, one for assault, two for domestic violence, one for criminal mischief and one for failure to appear.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for no proof of insurance, one for driving with a suspended driver's license, one for speeding and one for running a red light.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:
MONDAY, JAN. 26 - River stage - 6:25 feet (6:05 a.m.). Wreck (vehicle vs- deer) on Smith Ave. (7:39 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JAN. 27 - Domestic disturbance reported at 560 King Circle (1:10 a.m.). Domestic disturbance reported at 1018 Martin Luther King Dr. (12:28 a.m.). River stage - 14.71 feet (5:58 a.m.). One vehicle wreck reported on Hwy 141 (11:21 p.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to the wreck on

Hwy. 141 (11:32 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28 - River stage - 14.89 feet (6:13 a.m.). Attempted burglary reported at 816 S. Cedar Lane Dr. (7:41 a.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on County Rd. 239 (1:07 p.m.). Assault reported at 702 County Rd. 401 (6:22 p.m.).

THURSDAY, JAN. 29 - River stage - 13.24 feet (6:34 a.m.). Two-vehicle wreck reported at the intersection of Dayton St. and Highland Dr. (7:28 a.m.). Gun discharged in the area of S. Plant Ave. (8:11 p.m.). Possible fight in progress at 809 Putnam St. (10:32 p.m.).

FRIDAY, JAN. 30 - River stage - 12.61 feet (6:25 a.m.).

SATURDAY, JAN. 31 - River stage - 10.62 feet (6:24 a.m.). Disturbance reported on Reese Ave. (9:31 p.m.). Domestic disturbance reported at Beaver Dam Apts. (11:23 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEB. 1 - River stage - 9.08 feet (6:12 a.m.). Wreck reported on County Rd. 368 (6:01 p.m.). Possible domestic disturbance reported at 7028 Hwy. 125 (8:33 p.m.).

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

Vulgar language has no place on the air

Congressman Terry Everett
2nd Congressional District

While it has not made national headlines, Congress is currently drafting legislation to clean up America's public airwaves from vulgar language and obscenity. Several bills have been introduced which seek to ensure that current indecency rules are properly enforced.

During the nationally televised January 2003 Golden Globe Awards from Hollywood, the singer, Bono, from U-2, uttered uncensored obscene language in describing how thrilled he was to receive his award. To quote him, "This is really, really, really brilliant." His use of the "f-word" on network television created an uproar from offended viewers and a number of complaints were filed before the Federal Communications Commission.

After reviewing the case, the FCC ruled last October that Bono had not violated Federal obscenity rules since he used the "f-word" as an adjective. The FCC commissioners noted

Gulf War vets with ALS are eligible for VA care

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

About two years ago, Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi declared that U.S. military veterans who had served in the Persian Gulf region during the 1990-91 Gulf War are eligible for VA care if they've been diagnosed with a rare neurological disease that killed a famous baseball player.

Principi's decision, announced in December 2001, was based on a \$1.3 million DoD/VA-sponsored study of Gulf War veterans that indicated service members who had deployed to the Gulf "were at elevated risk" of acquiring amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, according to DoD Office of Health Affairs documents.

Through research of available military medical records - representing about half of the number

Bono's comments "may be crude and offensive," but not indecent, since they were used in a context which did not depict sexual or excretory activities which would meet the legal definition of indecency.

Needless to say this reinterpretation of Federal indecency law by the FCC generated howls of protests from citizens across the country. I have received literally thousands of emails from Second District residents outraged over the FCC ruling, and I share their views. It is simply unacceptable for the FCC to legitimize offensive speech depending on its placement in a sentence.

In response, Congress has been busy writing several bills to strictly enforce Federal indecency laws on radio and television. Two bills which I have cosponsored, HR 3717 and H. Res. 482, are gaining support in the U.S. House. The stronger of the two, The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2004 (HR

3717), was introduced by the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-Michigan.

Chairman Upton's bill, which was the subject of a January 28 congressional hearing, takes tough action against broadcasters who violate Federal indecency laws by increasing the amount of fines which can be levied from \$27,500 a violation to \$275,000. It also raises the cap of \$300,000 for a continuing violation to \$3 million. These penalties are significant enough that even broadcast networks will finally take notice.

In the wake of the tremendous public outcry over its unpopular ruling regarding the Bono incident, FCC Chairman Michael Powell has indicated that his agency would likely reverse its decision. That is a good first step. Congress has put the FCC on notice that it expects the commission to do its job and enforce Federal indecency laws. I am also hopeful that HR 3717 can soon be passed into law so as to send a strong signal that improper language will not be tolerated.

Radio and television stations have a responsibility to the public to maintain existing federally-imposed decency standards in their programming and Congress is committed to holding them accountable.

Wallace Community College students had an opportunity Thursday to visit with representatives from 4-year colleges and universities at College Day 2004 held on the Dothan Campus. Novelle Dewberry, left, of Elba, visited with university representatives as did Vanessa Dickens, right, WCC child development instructor. Ms. Dewberry is a freshman majoring in medical assisting.

Health statisticians, Kilpatrick explained, figured that about 33 cases of ALS among military members who served in the Gulf from August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, would have been consistent with trends within the comparative non-deployed military population.

The study also noted, Kilpatrick continued, there were 67 cases of ALS among the approximately 1.7 million service members who didn't deploy to the Gulf region during the Persian Gulf War.

Yet, given the low overall incidence of ALS cases found among deployed military during the Gulf War and the fact that no one knows exactly what causes ALS, Kilpatrick pointed out that service members currently in the Gulf region shouldn't be worried about acquiring the disease.

The work that went into the Gulf War veterans ALS study "is the product of a significant investment by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs over the past several years," Dr. William Winklenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs noted recently.

Such scientific research, Winklenwerder added, "helps answer veterans' questions and holds the promise for better protection of the health of our men and women during future deployments."

ALS was first identified in 1869, Kilpatrick pointed out. New York Yankees' star Lou Gehrig died of the disease at age 37 in 1941.

The disease progressively attacks victims' spinal and brain nerve centers, eventually causing paralysis and loss of speech. Mental faculties are not affected. Death - often caused by accompanying illnesses such as infections - usually occurs within two to five years of diagnosis of ALS. There is currently no known cure, Kilpatrick noted.

It's important for Gulf War veterans who've been diagnosed with ALS to know they're eligible for about \$21,000 in service-connected VA medical benefits, as well as in-home medical equipment and assistance, Kilpatrick said.

The ALS Association has sent out a message to all neurologists to make sure they understand this issue," he concluded.

Sean Houston Jr., Agent
991 Alabama Highway 303
Elba, AL
334-897-2229

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Public Notice
I, Jimmy H. Harrison, dba Olde South Inn, Inc. have made application to the City of Elba for a 160-Special Retail - More than 30 Days on premises consumption at this location, 717 West Davis St., Elba, Alabama. A public hearing will be held by the City Council in their regular meeting in the Council Chamber in City Hall at 5:30 p.m., Monday, February 09, 2004.

Community-Wide
Black History
Banquet

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004
Enterprise-Ozark
Community College
6:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker
Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
Superintendent, Troy City Schools

For Ticket Information Call:
Mary Merritt 347-8585
Diane Williams 347-5145
Eloise Henderson 347-3398
James Rivers 347-4212

TSU student completes leadership
development program for women

Betsy Bradshaw, a Troy State University student from Brantley, has completed the three-year program of the Leadership Edge Institute, a leadership development program for young women in Alabama.

Bradshaw, a junior chemistry major, participated in graduation exercises in January. Each class of about 35-40 young women learns about different aspects of leadership from corporate executives, elected officials and community activists. The students participate in a week-long Summer Institute and several weekend sessions during the academic year.

"The Leadership Edge Institute is designed to broaden our horizons," Bradshaw said. "We get to observe women in leadership roles."

One of the most helpful Leadership Edge initiatives was a mentor program. Bradshaw said. She chose Melinda Farmer Davis, a TSU graduate from her

hometown who is a pharmacist in Montgomery. Bradshaw said she observed Davis at work for several days and developed a strong relationship with her. "She helped me to better understand her job and how she deals with the public," Bradshaw said.

Attend the church
of your choice
this Sunday!

FOCUSSED
FACTS
IT HAPPENED
THIS WEEK!

On February 2, 1897, President Grover Cleveland signed the first Federal law that gave women the right to vote. Why did he do this? He was a Republican. Why did he do this? He was a Republican. Why did he do this? He was a Republican.

Thanks to its industrial Revolution between 1760 and 1830, England became an economic superpower. While some enterprising businessmen made fortunes, hundreds of thousands of highly paid workers suddenly found their skills had little value in the new economy.

As machines began performing tasks that previously required skilled workers, the displaced workers saw their incomes drop dramatically. Among those suffering the greatest losses were handloom weavers, whose skills at operating looms turned thread into cloth. After petitions and demonstrations failed to reverse their dramatic wage losses, some of the weavers turned to violence: They created the Luddite Army.

Handloom weaving had seen few changes since the Romans first introduced looms to England nearly 2,000

years earlier. The invention of the steam-powered loom, however, transformed the process early in the nineteenth century. The revolutionary machine allowed an unskilled operator to produce three times as much cloth as a skilled manual weaver. Suddenly, weavers' incomes fell by as much as fifty per cent, leaving many unable to feed their families.

factory owners showed little sympathy for the displaced weavers, refusing their repeated requests for a minimum wage. Weavers petitioned the government, but received no help. Desperation set in as their wages continued to plummet, and some weavers banded together to destroy the machines they viewed as the source of their misery. They called themselves Luddites, and created a fictitious character named General Ned Ludd as their leader.

During the first months of 1811, factory owners in and around the town of Nottingham began receiving letters demanding they stop using power looms. The letters were signed General Ned Ludd. Owners who ignored the warnings received midnight visits from Luddites, who destroyed their power looms. Shortly, Luddites began appearing across northern England. By the end of 1811,

the Luddite movement had spread to other parts of the country. By the spring of 1812, in April, Luddites attacked a factory in Yorkshire where armed guards were waiting. Two of the Luddites died. A week later, Luddites killed another factory owner. This resulted in the execution of seventeen men for the authorities.

During the summer, there were twenty-three more executions. The attacks stopped. While there were sporadic outbreaks during the next few years, the government had essentially defeated the Luddites.

Luddite violence was a desperate response by those cast aside because of technological advances. Want to find out more about the Luddites? Take The Web Journey.

Next Week: The Senator from Wisconsin who insulted President Harry Truman.

Find out more at:
http://www.archives.state.al.us/famous/bryce.html

For their generous contributions that ensure teachers and students receive all learning materials at no cost, we would like to thank the following supporters of our Community Newspaper in Education Program

Community Newspapers
in Education

Touchstone Energy
State Farm Bank

City of Elba

CITY

(Continued from Page One)

to \$161,104.

The police department and street department show a slight over spending on their budgets. Both had larger than budgeted salaries while the street department repair cost was triple budget and police department had the unexpected cost of building the new dog pound.

The dog pound work caused that line item to exceed the whole annual budget by \$15,000. "The fire department expenses vary based on the number of fires the volunteers respond to and through December the calls

have been down, thus this department is \$3,500 under budget.

Recreation Department expenses vary from month to month and the relative quite winter months allowed the department to be \$13,000 under budget even though salaries were \$3,400 over budget.

Debt retirement and capital expenditures can only be measured on an annual basis, as one time annual payments raise havoc with an annual budget broken down into twelve even monthly budgets.

Survivors include her husband, Johnnie B. Smith, Elba, two sons and one daughter-in-law, Brent Smith, Brandon Smith and April Smith, all of Elba; two sisters: Linda Bryant, Opp, Brenda Pridgen, Elba, and her mother: Hazel Marler Ennis, Elba.

GREGORY FRANKLIN HODGES
Gregory Franklin Hodges, age 42, of Elba, Ala., died Feb. 1, 2004 at his residence.

Graveside services will be held Friday morning, Feb. 6, 2004 at 10 a.m. at the Zion Church Cemetery with Rev. Ray Layton officiating. Burial will immediately follow with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Hodges was preceded in death by his parents, L.L. Hodges and Birdie Rushing and also a brother Chris Hodges.

Survivors include his stepfather: Daniel Rushing, Elba, three brothers: Tony Hodges, Phoenix, Ariz., Tim Hodges, Elba, Mark Hodges, Opp, Ala.; three sisters: Pat Hodges, Phoenix, Ariz., Cindy Phillips, Phoenix, Ariz.

Pre-need funeral planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home. For details Call 897-2225

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Obituaries

GLENN ENNIS SMITH
Mrs. Glenn Ennis Smith, age 52, of Elba, Ala., died Jan. 30, 2004 at her residence in Elba, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 2, 2004 at Mount Vernon Assembly of God Church with Rev. Ray Layton officiating and Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Smith was preceded in death by her father, Hudson R. Ennis of Elba.

Survivors include her husband, Johnnie B. Smith, Elba, two sons and one daughter-in-law, Brent Smith, Brandon Smith and April Smith, all of Elba; two sisters: Linda Bryant, Opp, Brenda Pridgen, Elba, and her mother: Hazel Marler Ennis, Elba.

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Kentwood, La., and Lisa Watson, Charleston, S.C.

BUDDY PERRY
Mr. Buddy Perry, age 75, of Hwy 189, Kinross, died Feb. 1, 2004, at Mizell Memorial Hospital, Opp.

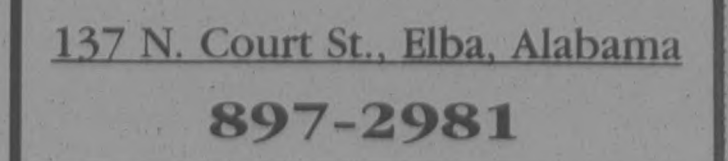
Mr. Perry was a veteran. Funeral services were held Feb. 3, 2004, at 10 a.m. at Wyatt Funeral Home Chapel, with John Freeman officiating. Burial was in Alberton Cemetery, Kinross, with Wyatt Funeral

Home directing. Survivors include his wife: Agnes Perry, Kinross; mother: Tachie Perry, Kinross; two sons: Tramel Perry, Kinross, and Travis Perry, Dothan; two brothers: Jack Perry, Andalusia; Jim Perry, Hoover, Ala.; a sister: Kathleen Smith, Macon, Ga.; one grandchild.

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SCHOOLS



FFA celebrates milestone birthday

FFA members will celebrate National FFA Week with a variety of activities. This celebration occurs the same week as the nation celebrates George Washington's birthday.

Planned activities for the week include a Petting Zoo for elementary students, a chapter meeting and refreshments for members.

To populate the Petting Zoo, members will bring their own animals and some will be pets while others will not. The Petting Zoo has, in the past,

New curriculum for Career Technical classes

All the Career Technical classes in Alabama have a new curriculum. It is a curriculum that has been updated and streamlined for the 21st century.

One of the courses in the Agri-Science curriculum is a course called Sports and Recreation Turf Management.

As the name implies, the class teaches young people how to plant, grow and maintain areas covered with turf or grass like sports fields and golf courses. This class has been helping maintain the sports fields at Zion Chapel which includes a football field and a baseball/softball field.

In addition to learning what makes grass grow, they are learning about the equipment-

News from ECCC

• FREE adult education classes are offered in basic reading, writing, and math, as well as in preparation for the GED Test. Enterprise-Ozark Community College brings classes to the Elba Recreation Center at 200 Buford Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m., New Brockton High School, Room 12, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., and to the Frisco Voting Building, Coffee County Highway 116, on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Enrollment is open at any time and at any session. Individualized instruction is available. Additional Adult Education sites will be provided upon request. Call 347-2623, ext. 2218 for more information.

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PROFANE
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY

Parents return to school for computer workshop

A computer workshop for parents who wanted to learn basic word processing and Internet training was recently held at Zion Chapel. A total of eight parents participated in the workshop.

Mark and Virginia Danley, James Williams, Cheryl Steele, Pam Berry, Kathy Wambles, Evelyn Carpenter and Pam Simmons participated in the community outreach project.

The group met Tuesday and Thursday for two weeks from 6 until 7:30 p.m. The basics of word processing using Microsoft Word was taught.

The group learned to format a business letter, a personal-business letter, a memo, and a manuscript. The formatting included changing margins, setting tabs, changing line spacing, and creating hanging indents. The

Zion Chapel's FFA members will celebrate the week along with over 400,000 other members across the nation. They have a special reason to celebrate this year. The organization is celebrating its 51st birthday.

Zion Chapel's Battlebot team preparing for Battlebot IQ III

Battlebot IQ III will be held in Owatonna, Minnesota, during the week of April 20, 2004, and Zion Chapel's team members are making preparations for the trip. The competition this year will include more than 50 robots.

Macon Hodge, Josh Richards, Derek Taylor and Adam Spear are Zion Chapel's Battlebot team. Josh is the only returning team member

needed for its maintenance.

Some of the equipment is manual and some is powered. The students learn when to use a hoe, a shovel, or a rake and when to use a lawn mower.

The course curriculum also includes learning how to maintain the equipment that is used.

Zion Chapel students receive abstinence education

Seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth graders at Zion Chapel and the other Coffee County schools are receiving abstinence education.

According to the pamphlet distributed by the Abstinence in Motion Education Project, abstinence education emphasizes making the right decision. It encourages teachers and parents to give clear guidance to young people about which sexual decisions are truly in their best interest. This will impact school dropouts, single parent

homes, child abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

Schools in Alabama already have Character Education and the Aim Project is designed to help schools integrate sexuality education with character education. The project's guidelines are based on specific facts and assumptions related to sexuality, family life and character education. They also reflect the values that parents and communities have traditionally sought to pass on to the young.

The design of the project is to lower the pregnancy rate for teens, to reduce the number of teens 17 years and younger who have engaged in sexual intercourse, to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among teens, to lower the birth rates among teens ages 15-17 years of age and to reduce the abortion rate for teenagers 15-17 years of age.

Abstinence in Motion is the

representatives from the Charles Henderson Child Health Center and the Troy Regional Medical Center for the AIM project.

Pike County Abstinence Education Project co-sponsored by the Charles Henderson Child Health Center and Troy Regional Medical Center and funded by grants from the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Maternal Child Health Bureau.

To get the project started a school nurse or counselor was contacted to organize the program and set up classes. Five

representatives from the Charles Henderson Child Health Center and the Troy Regional Medical Center met with students in grades 7-10 for a series of classes. For instance, the tenth grade has the program during their Health class.

The project targets students in the Pike, Crenshaw, Bullock, Barbour and Coffee County School Systems.

6th Grade: Jasmine Bell, Hayden Gibson, Aaron Grant, Tanner Grant, Stephanie Holloway, Nita Long, Erik Mount, Garrett Stinson, Lance Walden

7th Grade: Kristen Collins, Chelsey Freeman, Amber Grissett, Janie Hall, Andrew Little, Ashley Quattlebaum, Crege Rudolph, Justin Winters

8th Grade: Stephanie Collier, Brittany Dismukes, Jon Fuller, Megan Hodge, Sheena Hussey, Ava Long, Luther Peters, Victoria Stinson

9th Grade: Erica Lewis, Stacy Williams, Matthew Williams

10th Grade: Rosanna Johnson, Linda Leverett, Melanie Perry, Heather Sanders, D.J. Stinson

11th Grade: Lance Dickey, Chris Leger, Clay Lewis, William McCurdy, Kristen McClendon, Josh Smith, Michael Sneed

12th Grade: James Johnson, Anna Miller

AB Honor Roll
6th Grade: Christopher Bagwell, Donald Brown, Jennifer Cook, Dillon Davis, Hillary Davis, Heather Hines, Rebecca Hodge,

7th Grade: Heather Hines, Rebecca Hodge, Logan Leverett, Courtney Mauldin, Heather McCollough, Alyssa Napper, Landan Peters, Joshua Richards, Brittany Simmons, Joseph White

8th Grade: Ethan Arnold, Carol Banks, Matthew Carter, Caitlin Grissett, Janie Hall, Andrew Little, Ashley Quattlebaum, Crege Rudolph, Justin Winters

9th Grade: Jessica Carroll, Robert Faulk, Joseph Jones, John Wayne Lambert, Brittany Layton, Gage Nalley, Jonas Simmons, Rebecca Thompson, Caitlin White, Harry White

10th Grade: McKinley Arnette, Joshua Grant, Eppie Long, Jennifer Taylor

11th Grade: Abe Childs, Jacquelyn Cowart, Corney Dykes, Donna Flowers, Keni Flowers, Kayla Hughes, Brittany Manning, Byron McWaters, Rachel Tustin

12th Grade: Nicole Brown, Meta Gatlin, Roy King, Jason Sanders, Austin Smith, Brandon Taylor, Luke Taylor, Jamie Wise, Josh Yager

12th Grade: Amber Henderson, Kim Rayburn, Brittany Thompson, Jamie White

Valentine Sweetheart pageant set for Saturday, February 14

The 2004 "Valentine Sweetheart Pageant" will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, 4 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium.

Age divisions will include 0-11 months, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-18 years.

For more information, call Starla Amison at 897-8301 (after 4 p.m.); Herb Winters at 897-3095; Scott Cole at 897-5898 or Ray Kyle at 897-5851.

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 warranty - two to choose from - only **\$14,900⁰⁰**



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'01 EXPEDITION - EDDIE BAUER - leather
 - moon roof - loaded



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 - one owner - local trade



'02 CHEVROLET LT - 4x4 - loaded
 - one owner - like new!



'03 CHEVROLET LWB - reg cab - AT-8
 - work truck pkg - only 14K miles - great buy



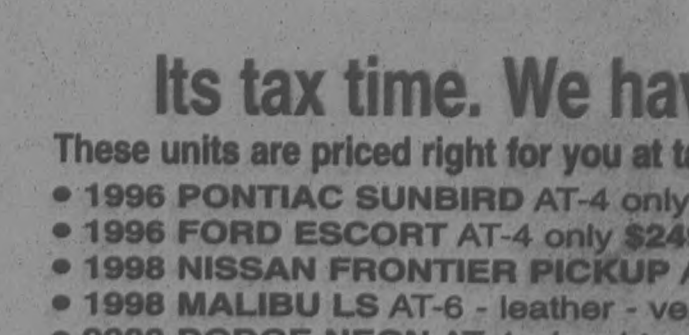
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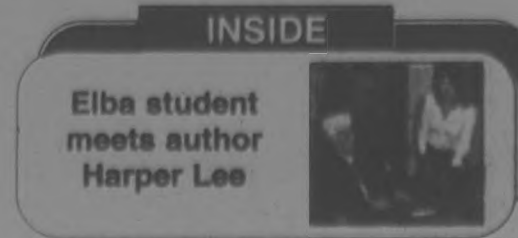
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 35 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 12, 2004 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

During Coffee County BOE meeting Grandparent/concerned citizen addresses officials regarding racism within system

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Thursday evening, Feb. 5, and the concerned questions of racism concerned the attention of the board and audience.

Alma Haynes, a grandparent and concerned citizen, appeared before the board to express her concern that racism is still a problem within the Coffee County School System.

Although the majority of her comments revolved around various incidents at the Zion Chapel School, Haynes nor any board member cited specific information due to the privacy laws.

Haynes said she had seen more negative changes than positive ones over the past 30 years.

"Why are we still having racial problems," she asked. "When people are on the school campus, don't they have to follow certain rules and regulations?"

Haynes said she is aware of numerous incidents where the African-American students at Zion Chapel have been offended and threatened with "racial slurs."

"This is February 2004, and we're still having the same problems we had in 1965 in the Coffee County School System," she said. "The African-American

students are being threatened up there (Zion Chapel), and these children are afraid to go to school."

She said the students also are afraid to go to the office to report incidents because of fear of retaliation from the Caucasian students.

"These African-American students should not be afraid to go to school,"

Haynes said. "We've (concerned parents, etc.) talked to Dr. Ingram, Mr. Barnes and others over the past few weeks, and they said

"This board will not tolerate racism or discrimination of any kind," said Charles Walker, chairman of the Coffee County Board of Education.

actions have been taken to correct the problem."

In the meantime, she said many parents of African-American students have removed their children from the Zion Chapel School and placed them in the schools at Arton or Pike County because of the continuing racial problems.

Haynes said these parents move their children with reservations while others choose to keep their children at Zion Chapel because "they (parents) feel with it being a primarily Caucasian school, they (the students) are getting a better education."

However, she said the students have said they can not take the stress anymore, and they can not deal with being called names any longer.

Haynes also said the African-American students do not receive the same breaks as Caucasian students in regards to punishment for breaking the rules and regulations. She said she has known of African-American students being expelled for minor things such as holding a comb (considered a weapon) or not taking off a cap while others are getting away with threatening lives.

Haynes also mentioned New Brockton High School as she expressed concern that African-American students are not offered the same opportunities as Caucasian students.

She said it seems to be a trend to place African-American and other minority students in special education simply because they are failing one subject. On a personal note, she said she kept this from happening to her own grandson.

"I gave New Brockton High School a list of scholarships for minorities," Haynes said. "I

Please See BOE, Page 12.

Commission hears news of senior assistance prescription drug program

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During its regular bimonthly meeting, the Coffee County Commission entertained a request Monday, Feb. 9, to assist in locating seniors in need of help with costs of prescription drugs.

Enterprise Mayor Kenneth Boswell, representing SARCOA (Southern Alabama Regional Council On Aging),

and Judy Crowley, director of the Coffee County Family Services Center, addressed commissioners and introduced a new local senior drug program.

Boswell said SARCOA has had the senior drug program in place for quite some time, but a \$17,000 grant recently secured through the E.L. Gibson Foundation will make the program available locally through the Family Services Center, located at the Coffee County Health Department.

Boswell said this will be more convenient for the seniors of Coffee County in that they can come to the Coffee County



LOCALLY OWNED RESTAURANT OPENS...The Elba Chamber of Commerce helped the owners and employees of Jerry's celebrate the restaurant's first week of business Friday, Feb. 6, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. The family owned and operated business opened Monday, Feb. 2, and enjoyed a productive week of serving the community. Jerry's is located at 989 Highway 203 (on the bypass) in Elba. It is a dine in or take out restaurant and is open Monday - Saturday. Those present for the ribbon cutting included (from left): Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Tonya Jones, Kenneth Calhoun, Pat Moulton, Daphne Huggins, Barry Giles, Florine Smith, Doris Matthews, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Jerry Huggins - owner, Wayne Galinski, Rick Stehler, Future Little Miss Elba Annisley Padgett, Mandy White, Tammy Henson, Jimmy Harrison, Miss Elba Anna Anderson and Denise Sauls.

Health Department to apply for the program rather than having to go to the SARCOA office in Dothan.

Crowley said her department is very excited about the Senior Assistance Prescription Drug Program, but they need the help of commissioners in finding those seniors who might not receive the information otherwise.

She said the local program will only serve Coffee County residents, and those who qualify will have their medicine paid for by pharmaceutical companies.

To apply for the program, Crowley said a senior must meet requirements including: • being at least 60-years-old; • have no prescription drug coverage; • have a chronic medical condition; • be a legal resident of Coffee County • have an annual household income less than \$17,960 for one person or \$24,240 for two people.

"We're trying to make it as simple as possible for all involved," Crowley said.

She said the program has already begun, and Barbara Turner will be handling it for the Coffee County office.

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Elba citizens encouraged to attend Town Hall meeting

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Anywhere and everywhere one looks in Elba these days a sign of change and improvement can be found.

Just to name a few, there's the levee rehabilitation project, the four-laning of U.S. Highway 84, the construction of a new diagnostic lab, a new industry coming to town and others announcing expansion. Now, there's one more thing to be added to the list.

Through the Downtown Revitalization Authority (DRA), the City of Elba recently was awarded a planning grant for its downtown revitalization project.

According to Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, DRA members have been working with a grant writer who led the group to Cheryl Morgan, a representative of Auburn University who also assisted the Town of Headland with its downtown revitalization project.

Whitworth said Morgan, recently met with DRA members to get an idea of what the people of Elba want accomplished with the downtown revitalization project. At this meeting, she suggested having a Town Hall meeting to allow all citizens an opportunity to express their ideas and opinions for the future of downtown Elba.

"This is a big opportunity for us to make a difference in our downtown area," Whitworth said. "I believe it's the best opportunity we've ever had."

The Town Hall meeting has been set for Thursday evening, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium, and all interested citizens of Elba, young or old, are encouraged to attend and be heard.

Whitworth said Morgan will be conducting her study for Elba's downtown revitalization project over the next few months, and she is very interested in receiving input from the citizens.

"She wants to create a plan based on what the people of Elba would like to see the downtown area look like," Whitworth said. "She wants to see some things involved with the project could take years to finish, but we have to start somewhere by creating a plan and having it in place."

Once Morgan completes her study, Whitworth said it will be up to the city to go after grants, etc. to fund the revitalization project.

During the upcoming town hall meeting, Whitworth said Morgan will be offering suggestions and touching on different aspects of the downtown project, but she is most interested in receiving feedback from those who will enjoy the revitalization of downtown Elba most. Its citizens.

"We really want people to come out to this meeting," Whitworth said. "The whole idea behind the project is getting what we eventually want; therefore, we need to hear from all interested citizens in order to make the best decisions for the revitalization of downtown Elba."

During Elba City Council meeting Alcohol license applicant withdraws license request

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council recessed a regular meeting Monday night to hold a public hearing on the request of Olde South Inn for a "Special Retail Liquor License." Council members were told at the onset that no final decision could be made at this meeting because the state-required background checks on the principals had not been completed.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham said he had talked with the state office doing the checks and was told they were short staffed and had a backlog of work.

Items questioned during the hearing included the need for a sworn, notarized affidavit that all property owners residents,

(etc.) within 500 feet had been properly notified of the hearing; ample parking as required by the city ordinance, proper zoning; and required distance from any church facility.

Council members were told that the Baptist Church Youth House was only 338 feet and nine inches from the Inn.

Harrison acknowledged he hadn't talked to anyone at the Baptist Youth House as there was never anyone there when he went by during the day, and he didn't consider it a residence nor a church in the context of the ordinance.

After a lengthy discussion between the council members, city attorney and the principals of Olde South Inn, Harrison and Dorothy Vaughan, the council

returned to its formal session and was about to table the matter until the paperwork was completed when they were told the requesters wished to withdraw their application.

Elba Mayor James Grimes asked if they were sure this was what they wanted to do and was told this was their wishes and the request was granted.

Elba Police Chief R. W. Whitworth told council members that the Town of Kinston had presented members of the Drug Task Force, from both the Elba Police Department and Coffee County Sheriff's Department, nice citations for their efforts to stop the illegal

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Gayle F. Oberst Trailhead dedicated in Panama City Beach

The Beaches Chamber and the City of Panama City Beach held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 23, 2003, to officially open the Gayle F. Oberst Trailhead at Frank Brown Park.

Also, the City of Panama City Beach recently was selected as a recipient of the Florida Bicycle Association's Bicycle Friendly

children's fish pond and a paved trail joining others around Frank Brown Park.

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Mrs. Oberst received a plaque that read "Presented in recognition of your tireless and successful work in creating greenways and trails for Panama City Beach," Oberst said. "so many others have worked to make this happen, and we have more work ahead of us."

For the past three years Oberst has coordinated efforts in planning greenways and trails with St. Joe Company and Gulf Power to secure easements. She expects to see Panama City Beach becoming a "bicycle and walking friendly community," and said the trailhead featured a

Community Award; Councilwoman Oberst was recognized as one of the chief supporters of the project.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Doris and the late Alvis Farmer, of Elba.



The trailhead and surrounding trails, located in Panama City Beach, Fla. were named in honor of Gayle Oberst who is the daughter of Doris and the late Alvis Farmer of Elba.

Area Happenings

THE 2004 "VALENTINE SWEETHEART PAGEANT" will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium. Age divisions will include 0-11 months, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-9 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-18 years. The Elba Masonic Lodge #170 is sponsoring the pageant.

THE TOWN OF NEW BROCKTON OFFICES will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of the President's Day holiday. For emergencies, call the New Brockton Police Department at 894-5529.

THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE in Ozark will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 18 and 19. It will reopen Friday, Feb. 20, at 9 a.m.

THE TREASURE FOREST ASSOCIATION will conduct a Hardwood Seedling Giveaway Saturday, Feb. 21, at the offices of Time Limited Forestry of Elba beginning at 9 a.m. Time Limited Forestry is located at 2045 County Road 364 (1/2 mile on right past Coffee County Lake). A huge variety of hardwood tree seedlings will be given away. For more information, call Ted Vignola at 897-5948 or Mike Bailey at 735-5468.